

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH IN INDIAN ORCHARD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor the parish of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Indian Orchard, Massachusetts, as they celebrate their 150th year of existence.

This church has a strong history of roots in the community and I am proud to share with you some important facts and unique traditions. Its origins date back to the winter of 1848 when an interested group of citizens formed the nucleus of the parish and founded what is now called the Evangelical Covenant Church of Indian Orchard. After more than a century of service, the church, in 1954, adopted a new name, becoming the First Congregational Church of Indian Orchard.

However, in June of 1997, upon joining the Evangelical Covenant Church of America which was first organized in 1885, the church acquired yet another name, its current name, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Indian Orchard. From this chronology, it is interesting to see how this 150 year old Indian Orchard institution is in some ways, very new.

During the past 150 years, the church has survived several calamities including fires and hurricanes. Despite this adversity, the church has been a constant source of religious inspiration and stewardship for its parishioners and community.

Through this time, the church has also been able to establish and preserve many signifi-

cant traditions while similarly adapting to modernity. One custom which began in 1894 and is still carried out today is that of presenting bibles to seven year old children of the Sunday school. Another practice of the church noted in the records in 1880 was the serving of communion wine by the pastor into a single cup used by all who partook. Today this convention has been altered as communion wine is now served in individual cups.

The parishioners of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Indian Orchard look forward to celebrating and sharing these traditions with their newly installed Pastor, Reverend Donald Olson. There are many special plans set for the weekend of April 17, 1998 which include a hymn sing, anniversary banquet, and worship services. These events should make for a fine celebration and I congratulate the church on 150 years of religious service.

**OPPOSE PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this week a U.S. District Court in Los Angeles ruled that key portions of California Proposition 187 are unconstitutional. I am absolutely appalled by this declaration, which ultimately indicates that taxpayer dollars may be used to benefit undocumented immigrants.

Passed as a ballot initiative in 1994, Proposition 187 broadly denies state taxpayer-funded benefits to illegal aliens. This initiative also calls for greater cooperation between state au-

thorities and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in the detection of illegal aliens. I endorse Proposition 187 and signed the petition to put it on the ballot.

Proposition 187 was supposed to have taken effect on November 9, 1994; however it has been plagued with controversy since it was passed by California voters. Federal Judge Mariana Pfaelzer has declared a number of the initiatives are unconstitutional, citing the 1982 Supreme Court ruling in *Plyler v. Doe* which maintained that states could not deny public school enrollment to illegal aliens. Although the state attorney general's office has indicated it will appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the final resolution of this appeal and other suits filed by various citizens' groups will likely take years.

That Americans' hard-earned wages should be used to support immigrants who reside in this nation illegally is totally unacceptable. Mr. Speaker, I will not stand for such injustice.

Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY (R-CA) has introduced H.R. 7, the Citizenship Reform Act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and deny citizenship at birth to children born in the U.S. of parents who are not citizens or permanent resident aliens. In addition, Congressman BOB STUMP (R-AZ) has introduced H.R. 347, which will effect a moratorium on immigration by aliens other than refugees, priority workers, and the spouses and children of United States citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am cosponsor of both of these pieces of legislation because I believe something must be done and it is up to us to act now. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7 and H.R. 347 in order to ensure that taxpayers' dollars are benefitting taxpayers, not illegal aliens.